

**To:** Files – 2210 Analysis and Plans  
**From:** Steve Hiebert - Rangeland Management Specialist  
**Date:** October, 2015  
**Subject:** Buck Meadows C&T #1 - Assessment and evaluation of cluster data

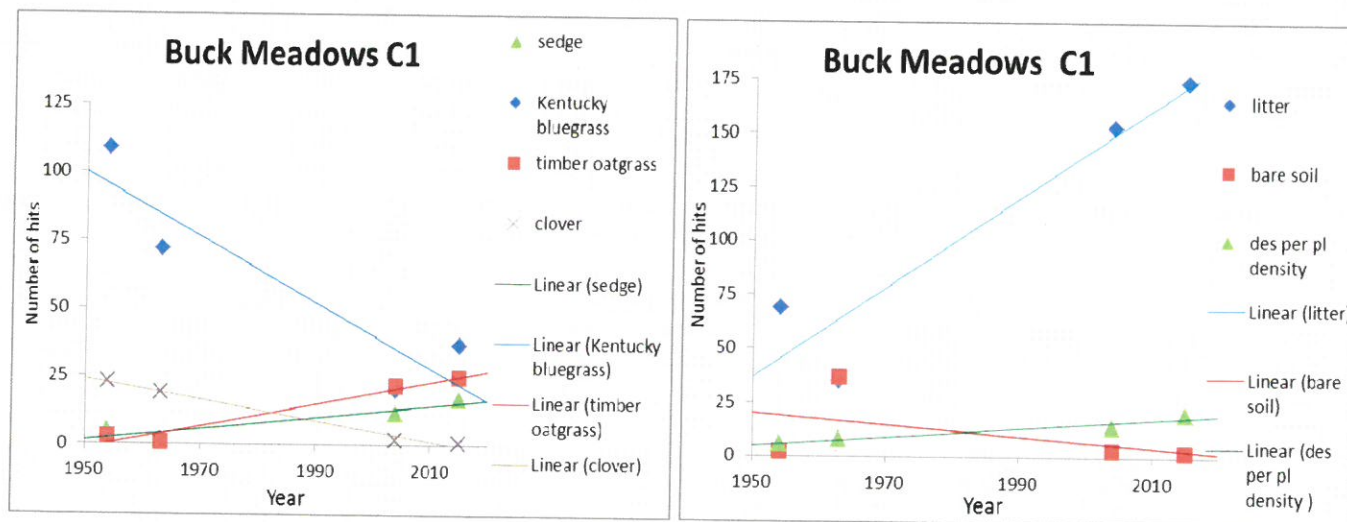
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## History

Cluster was installed in 1954 in Merton Meadows with three transects and has since been reread three times. Cluster was established to monitor the effects of cattle grazing. Cluster is within the active Hungry Ridge C&H Allotment. Plot locale has a past history of heavy grazing. In 2002 a fence was constructed to limit grazing by domestic livestock – all three transects are within the enclosure. The fence has been effective on limiting use by livestock.

## Current Vegetative Condition

Vegetation is dominated by timber oatgrass, sedge, and bluegrass. Vigor of the main forage species is increasing. Both bluegrass and clover have decreased, while sedges, oatgrass, and violets have increased. Merton Meadows has extensive conifer encroachment with lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce most common. Desirable perennial plant density is up. Trend is up (1954 assessment has bluegrass as desirable, and recent assessments have bluegrass as intermediate) based on Kentucky bluegrass as an intermediate. Condition is fair.



## Soils

Soils are clay loams of good grass producing nature with high moisture holding ability, and show an improvement in stability. Litter has increased. Vegetation is a major factor in stability. Condition is excellent. A small headcut is active in the meadow below Transect 1.

Grazing level by deer and elk is low to moderate.

Reread in 25 years.

**To:** Files – 2210 Analysis and Plans  
**From:** Steve Hiebert - Rangeland Management Specialist  
**Date:** March, 2007  
**Subject:** Butte-Gospel C&T #5 - Assessment and evaluation of cluster data

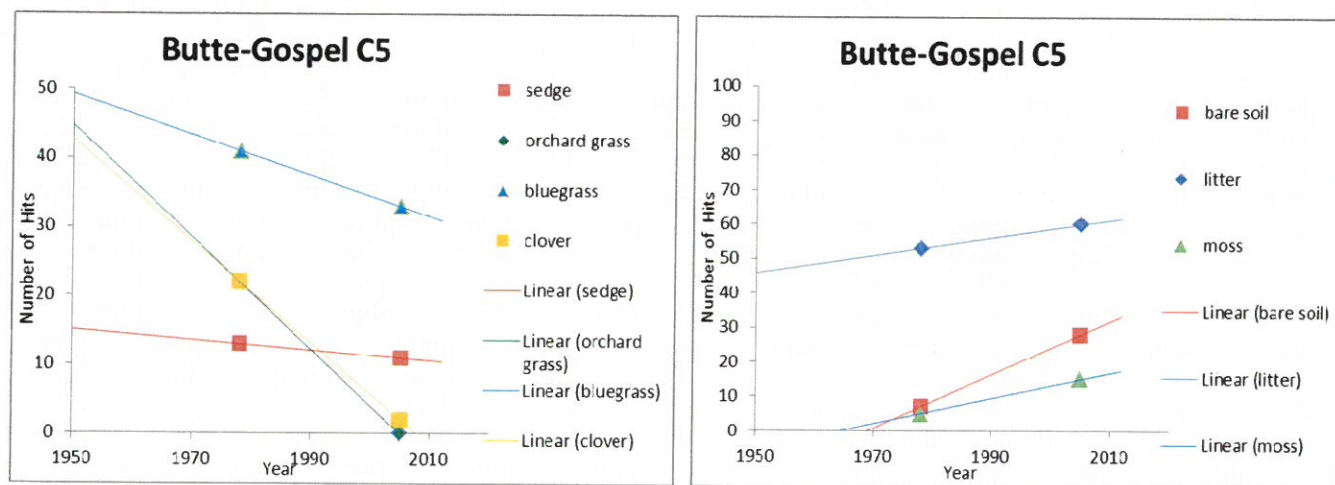
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## History

Cluster was installed in 1977 as C1 but later changed to C5. Two transects were installed to monitor effects of cattle grazing. The cluster area was fenced in 1995 to exclude cattle grazing and create a horse user campground. Fence has been commonly breached by cattle since construction. The campground receives grazing use in the fall from by hunter's horse/mules. T1 passes near a hitching post.

## Current Vegetative Condition

Site is dominated by non-native desirable grasses. Orchard grass, clover, and sedge have decreased and redtop has slightly increased. Vigor is good. Bare soil has increased due to the close location of transects to feed bunks and hitching rails. Trend is static and condition is fair.



## Soils

Soils are loamy. Bare soil has increased and litter has increased. Campground use increases compaction and has increased the amount of bare soil.

Reread in 20 years.

**To:** Files – 2210 Analysis and Plans  
**From:** Steve Hiebert - Rangeland Management Specialist  
**Date:** March, 2007  
**Subject:** Butte-Gospel C&T #6 - Assessment and evaluation of cluster data

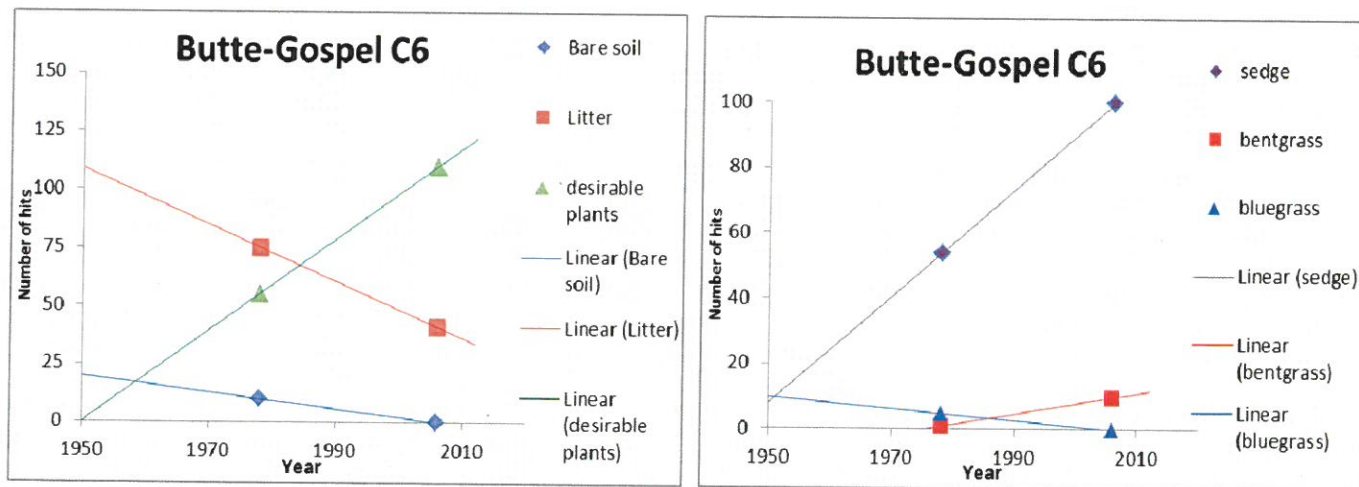
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## History

Cluster was established in 1978. Two transects were installed to monitor effects of cattle grazing. Cluster is in a flat, cold, and wet meadow dominated by sedges. Elevation is 6700'. Cluster is next to Sawyer Ridge Road 444A. Sedge identification was/is questionable as many plants tallied were not in flower. Area receives light grazing by cattle, with most years having little or no use.

## Current Vegetative Condition

Site is dominated by native desirable grasses, rushes, and sedges. Sedges and rushes have increased in density. Thurber's bentgrass has increased and has good vigor. Vigor of the forage plants is fair to good. Bare soil and litter have decreased while desirable perennial plant density has doubled. Condition is excellent and trend is up.



## Soils

Soils are loamy with a high water table. Bare soil has decreased indicating an upward trend. Condition is excellent.

Reread in 20 years.

**To:** Files – 2210 Analysis and Plans

**From:** Steve Hiebert - Rangeland Management Specialist

**Date:** January, 2012

**Subject:** Hungry Ridge C&T #1 - Assessment and evaluation of cluster data

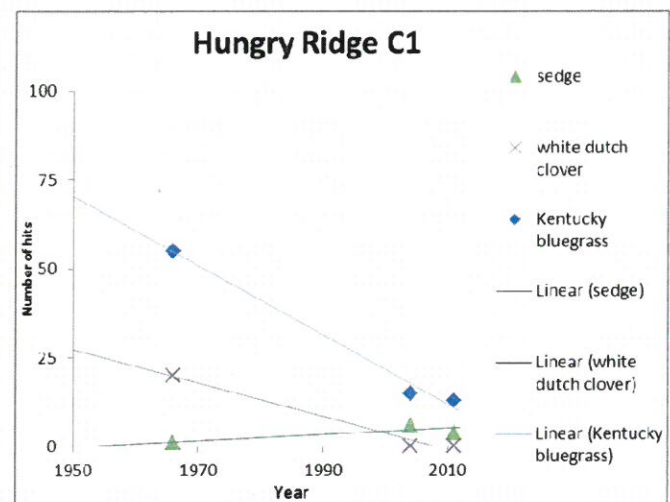
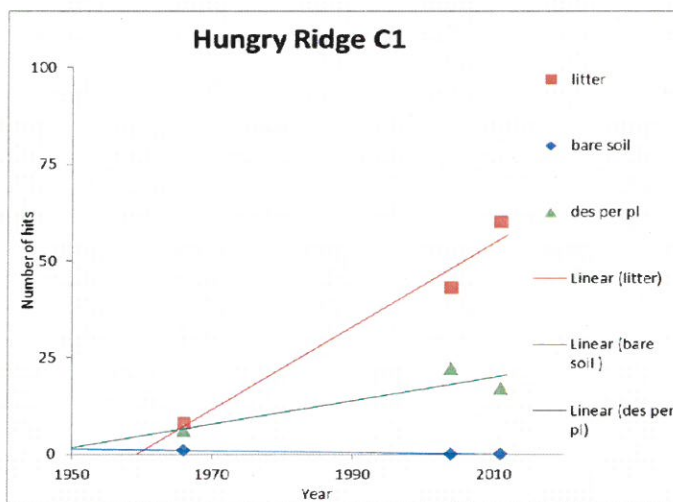
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## History

Cluster was established in 1966 with one transect and has been reread two times. Cluster was established to monitor effects of cattle grazing. Cluster is within the Buck Meadows riparian fence on the active Hungry Ridge Allotment (grazing by domestic livestock excluded by the fence). Area is a meadow habitat type that currently has potential for lodgepole pine encroachment. Plot locale has a past history of heavy grazing. When and if the enclosure is breached by livestock, most of the use occurs near transect. The comparison of photos from 2004 to 2011 shows a decrease in shrubs along American Creek – during this period severe defoliation of alder was done by insects (tent caterpillar?).

## Current Vegetative Condition

Vegetation is dominated by sedge, bentgrass, timothy, and Kentucky bluegrass. Vigor of the main forage species is increasing - except for bluegrass. Area has shown an increase in sedge, fescue, timber oatgrass, and a decrease in clover, timothy, and bluegrass. Kentucky bluegrass is abundant but on the decline. Bluegrass comprises a small part of the biomass on site and is overtopped by other species. Moss cover is static. Native forbs are increasing. Desirable perennial plant density has increased. Condition is good and trend is upward.



## Soils

Soils are deep, dark loams that are stable. Water table is most likely rising. Vegetation is a major factor in stability. Bare soil is static at a very low level and litter has increased. Condition is excellent.

Grazing by deer and elk is moderate.

Reread in 20 years.